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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Military Information from Frankfurt/OderEVALUATION see below

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DATE OF CONTENT 22 October to 9 November 1953

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REFERENCES _____

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

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1. On 9 November 1953, the Horn Kaserne in Frankfurt/Oder quartered about 1,500 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets most of them with tank insignia some with motor transport insignia. On 2 November, source observed about 50 men doing close order drill in the billeting area, 60 men practicing at the obstacle course and SP gun entering the installation from the direction of Hofbauer Kaserne. On 6 November, light armored scout car [REDACTED] was seen leaving the installation, toward Buelow Kaserne, while T-34/85 tank [REDACTED] and JS tank [REDACTED] both of them apparently coming from Buelow Kaserne, were seen entering the installation.

2. On 9 November, the Buelow Kaserne was occupied to capacity by about 2,000 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, motor transport and in some cases also with tank insignia. On 4 November, about 100 men were being trained in the billeting area with 6 x 76-mm, 4 x 57-mm and 2 x 45-mm AT guns. On 7 November, source observed two tanks, apparently of type T-34, in the billeting area and 25 men being trained with light mortar opposite the barracks installation.

3. On 9 November, the Artillerie Kaserne was occupied almost to capacity by about 1,500 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets most of them with artillery insignia, but some also with motor transport insignia. On 30 October, source observed four prime movers each towing a gun of about 150-mm caliber and five trucks loaded with personnel arrive at the installation from the direction of the marshaling yard. About 3:45 p.m. on 5 November, about 60 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets, most of them with artillery insignia, entered the installation from the direction of Westkreuz. The soldiers were armed with carbines, submachine guns and a light machine gun. At the same time, a unit of about 100 men had fallen in in the billeting area. Two 37-mm AA guns were seen with this unit.

4. On 26 October, the Ziethen Kaserne quartered about 1,500 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, tank and in some cases also with motor transport insignia. In the night of 24/25 October, tanks and SP guns were detrained at the marshaling yard. A portion of the equipment involved proceeded to the barracks.

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installation. On 26 October, source observed, in the billeting area, four T-34/85 tanks, two armored scout cars, all of them canvas-covered, and 250 to 300 men with baggage.

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5. On 26 October, the Eichhorn Kaserne quartered about 1,500 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia, black-bordered crimson, blue-bordered black, and black-bordered blue epaulets. On 23 October, about 100 men who wore red-bordered black and black-bordered crimson epaulets were taken by trucks to the passenger station. The soldiers carried carbines and rucksacks and subsequently left toward Cottbus by passenger train. On 24 October, about 60 men who wore black-bordered blue epaulets and carried baggage but no arms were seen entering the installation from the direction of the passenger station. On 26 October, source observed about 150 recruits with black-bordered crimson epaulets. On 6 November, about 250 men who wore black-bordered crimson epaulets and carried rucksacks and submachine guns entered the installation from the direction of the passenger station. On 7 November, source observed eight new 132-mm rocket launchers proceed through the passenger station toward Cottbus. On 8 November, 50 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia and carried rucksacks and small arms and about 30 unarmed soldiers with black-bordered blue epaulets and rucksacks were seen marching from the direction of Eichhorn Kaserne to the railroad station. On 9 November, source observed about 25 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets some of them with artillery insignia and carried rucksacks and carbines march from the railroad station to the Eichhorn Kaserne.

6. On 8 November, the Ziethen Kaserne was occupied almost to capacity by 1,500 to 2,000 men with red-bordered black epaulets, most of them with artillery and tank insignia, some of them with motor transport insignia. On 5 November, source observed a detail of about 40 men with two 120-mm mortars enter the installation from the training area near the small water tower. On 6 and 7 November, three T-34/85 tanks were seen entering the installation from the direction of Muellrose. Two more tanks were seen in the billeting area where about 90 men were engaged in close order drill. About 2 p.m. on 7 November about 100 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia were seen returning from the Soviet war monument to the installation.

7. On 5 November, the Eichhorn Kaserne quartered about 2,000 men with red-bordered black epaulets and artillery, tank and motor transport insignia, black-bordered crimson, blue-bordered black and black-bordered blue epaulets. On 30 October, source observed about 300 soldiers who wore black-bordered crimson epaulets and carried rucksacks, according to source recruits, leave the installation. On 6 November, trucks each occupied by about 20 men with baggage, left the installation toward the town. About 4:30 p.m., about 50 men who wore black-bordered crimson and red-bordered black epaulets and who carried baggage entered the installation. On 7 November, a detail of about 100 men who wore black-bordered crimson epaulets and who had placed a wreath at the Soviet war monument were observed returning to the installation.

8. On 31 October, the Horn Kaserne was occupied to capacity by about 2,000 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets most of them with tank insignia, some of them also with motor transport and artillery insignia. On 28 October, source observed soldiers being trained with three trucks mounting twin-barreled AA guns in the billeting area. Four canvas-covered tanks were parked in the yard of the installation. On 30 October, about 80 men were engaged in field training northwest of the installation; three JS tanks were seen entering the installation from the direction of Buelow Kaserne. About 4:40 p.m., two 132-mm rocket launchers left the installation toward Muellrose.

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9. On 23 October, about 300 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets most of them with tank insignia were seen leaving Horn Kaserne toward the loading ramp on Schubertstrasse, where they were loaded into six to eight boxcars. About 4 p.m., about 400 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and who had come from Ziethen Kaserne were being entrained at the loading ramp. On 29 October, about 1,000 men with black-bordered crimson epaulets, according to source recruits, were detrained at the loading ramp. From 200 to 300 men marched to the Horn Kaserne, the remainder toward Ziethen Kaserne.

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10. On 29 October, the Eichhorn Kaserne was heavily occupied by personnel with red-bordered black epaulets. A former motor vehicle garage about 120 meters long was being converted into a material depot.

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Comment. Contrary to the status observed in October when the barracks installations in Frankfurt/Oder were only partially occupied as a result of exercises held in the area east of the town, the present report indicates that all component units of the 7th Gds Mecz Div had returned to their permanent quarters by early November. In detail the observations reported present the following picture:

Horn Kaserne:

The observation of predominantly tank insignia with soldiers stationed there and of JS tanks indicate that the installation quarters the 84th HV Tank SP Regt. The two rocket launchers mentioned in paragraph 8 of the present report probably did not belong to the unit stationed at the installation. The unidentified rocket launcher battalion of the division is believed to be stationed either at the Ziethen Kaserne or at the barracks installation on Braunsdorfer Strasse in Fuerstenwalde.

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Buelow Kaserne:

From the AT guns and light mortars seen there it is believed that a mechanized regiment, probably the 25th Gds Mecz Regt, is located at the installation.

Ziethen Kaserne:

The occupation of this installation is still unclear. Just as the report furnished by the same source in October, the present report does not contain any indications supporting the assumption that the U/1 Gds How Arty Regt and the 238th Gds AAA Regt of the division are actually stationed at the Ziethen Kaserne. The tanks repeatedly observed at the installation may have been under repair at the tank repair shop believed to be located at this installation. The 120-mm mortars in conjunction with the tanks mentioned in paragraph 6 of the report rather indicate that another mechanized unit is stationed in Frankfurt/Oder. The light and partly unclarified occupation of barracks installation in Fuerstenwalde makes it possible that the 24th or 26th Gds Mecz Regt or component units of them moved to Frankfurt/Oder in the summer or fall.

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Eichhorn Kaserne:

Since mid-October, this installation has almost exclusively been used as a processing point for recruits and discharges. The material depot reportedly established at the installation is probably oriented parallel to Muellrose Landstrasse.

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